

Back to tradition

Canada Day BBQ, Splash Bash, cake return for July 1

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

A line-up of events for the traditional Canada Day Splash Bash on July 1 afternoon was announced last week.

Despite the cancellation over strikes of all celebrations in Westmount Park last year, these events are to resume this year and “we are so excited to be back”

Indie’s summer schedule

July 2 & 9: issues

July 16, 23 & 30 and August 6: no issues

August 13 & following: weekly until Christmas

especially after the pandemic years, said Mayor Christina Smith. She is expected to cut the Canada Day cake along with several members of the council.

The traditional barbecue of hot dogs and hamburgers by the city’s Teen Zone is scheduled to kick off the activities and takes place at noon at the WRC, followed by the Splash Bash races and pool games at 2 pm. These will be followed at 3 pm by the cutting of the cake and resumption of normal pool activities throughout the afternoon.

While a second citizenship ceremony may take place at a later date, Mayor Smith said, the one that had been cancelled for Canada Day last year recently took place April 23 at the armoury of the Royal Montreal Regiment (see story March 14, p. 1).

Shauit, city mark National Indigenous Peoples Day



Award-winning native singer-songwriter Shauit, left, and his band entertained people in Westmount Park June 21. The event was a part of the city’s 150th anniversary celebrations, but also to recognize National Indigenous Peoples Day. Shauit was accompanied by Sandrine Masse-Savard, right, on viola and back-up vocals; and, not pictured, Noel Mpiaza on drums and back-up vocals, and Julien Senez-Gagnon on electric bass. Shauit was born in Malotienam, Quebec to an Innu mother and an Acadian father. “My mother was a good singer, but I was influenced by the popular indigenous duo Kashtin and then when I came to Montreal, I heard reggae and really liked it,” he said.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

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Recent council approvals compared

Renovating your home? Heritage rating can play a big role

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

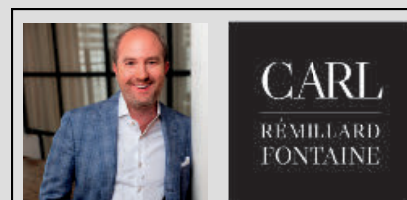
Ever wonder why some building permits, especially those for dwellings, receive approval while others may stall at the level of the city’s Planning Advisory Committee (PAC)?

The status of two permits that made their way onto the city council agenda June 3 stand as examples of how the system dep-

ends to a large extent on how the city rates the heritage assessment of dwellings, the highest being I* and decreasing in historical and architectural significance through categories I, II and III.

Both of these permit requests were for external renovation. Approval was given for one to create a wider front stairway to span the entire width of the entrance porch at 10 *continued on p. 5*

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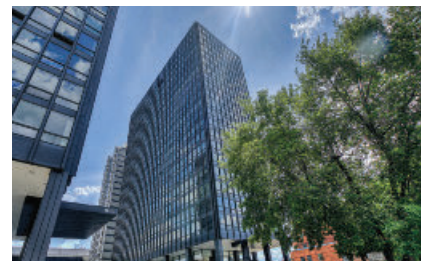
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Watch out for those orange signs

Public Security warns drivers of seasonal work, parking restrictions

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Three cars parked on streets where temporary orange no-parking/stopping signs had been placed brought out tow trucks for which the car owners were charged the costs, Public Security officials said.

“People really have to look out for the signs because lots of work is under way,” warned Public Security director Greg McBain.

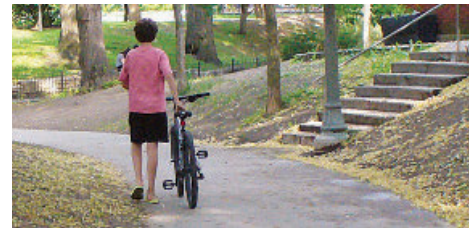
Not only does this involve construction work on streets or private property but also city work for hydro or trees.

One recent call June 12 involved a Volvo blocking the driveway to the apartment building at 4330 Sherbrooke, whose entrance is around the corner on Redfern. Two days later, another call came from a contractor about a Tesla reported to have been parked since June 6 in upper Westmount, resulting in a tow truck being called, the car moved down the street and a ticket issued for \$180 that included the cost of the towing.

In another incident the same day, a call was received from a city Public Works supervisor to say a tree crew was on site to do emergency work at Upper Lansdowne and Sunnyside. While a tow truck was in the throes of loading an obstructing car onto a flatbed, the owner arrived on the scene to retrieve it, but had to pay the cost of the tow truck, \$86.

Cyclist ticketed in Westmount Park

A 15-year-old NDG cyclist was ticketed \$72 June 17 for riding on walking paths in Westmount Park, Public Security officials said. He was one of several seen recently despite warning signs against riding bikes there and in other parks. Because of his age, his mother was contacted to inform her of the ticket.



Different approaches to bicycles in Westmount Park, as seen June 20.



Two-car accident deploys air bags at Montrose and Mt. Pleasant

Two cars collided at Montrose and Mount Pleasant June 5, bringing out police and fire vehicles, Public Security officials said. While no injuries were found, initial calls were received at 3:30 pm for an accident with injuries.

On arrival, public safety officers found damages to both vehicles and saw one with air bags deployed. No medical assistance was required but traffic congestion required the work of Public Security.

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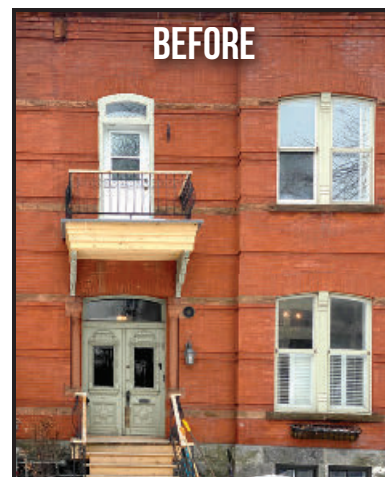
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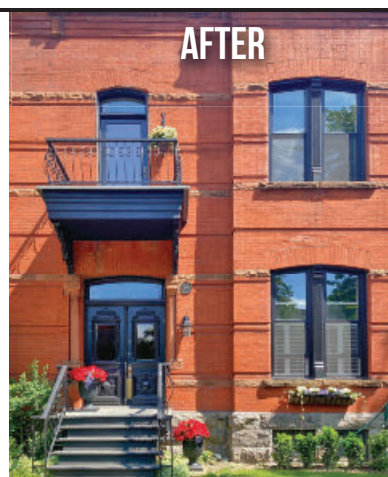
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City: Clay court athletes soon to have their water fountain again

BY JENNIFER BALL

The water fountains outside the clay tennis courts at the Lansdowne entrance of Westmount Park have not been operational since the spring of 2022, but the city says they will be operational in the next few weeks.

Now-retired city Communications director Sebastien Samuel indicated in a June 29, 2022 statement that “a piece had broken in the fountains” (July 5, 2022, p. 29). He continued: “A replacement part was ordered, and it will be required to be installed before the fountain is in operation again.” No estimated time could be given at the time.

Mugisha Rutishisha, division chief of Communication and Citizen Experience for the city, said on June 6 of this year, “The fountain should be repaired within the next few weeks...The Public Works department is currently figuring out how to connect the drain to the sewer system, which is not nearby.”

► The drinking fountain outside the clay courts, located near the Lansdowne entrance of Westmount Park. Photo taken on June 11.



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Another look at Westmount Public Library's 125th



At the 125th anniversary celebrations of the Westmount Public Library on June 12, Edmund Lam and daughter Nina Lannes-Lam piece together a jigsaw puzzle depicting the library. It was one of the souvenirs available for purchase. Edmund is the son of Westmount quilter Lily Lam, whose award-winning storyteller's cape hangs on display at the library.



Birthday cupcakes were a major attraction at the celebration as servers tried to keep up with the outstretched hands of children and adults alike at the event that attracted attendees of all ages (see story June 18, p. 5).

PHOTOS: LAUREN SWEENEY

Heritage rating, cont'd from p. 1

Surrey Gardens, a Category III house. The one denied was for replacing an asphalt shingle roof at a Category II home at 657 Murray Hill. Both outcomes had been recommended by the PAC.

The reason given in the council resolution for approving the Surrey Gardens request was that the front façades of such Category III buildings "have a lower architectural value than Category II buildings."

Blending into the environment

No specific standards apply to the conservation of the existing facades of these Category III buildings, it explains. They are permitted "as long as they are visually coherent and blend in with the environment."

By comparison, however, replacing the existing asphalt shingle roof on the Murray Hill dwelling with another of the same material was denied because, according to its resolution, the roof material is con-

sidered "a character defining" provision under By-law 1305 (for Category II buildings).

"To avoid creating a false sense of historic development, replacements should be made (based) on pictorial and or physical evidence." When such archival documentation is not available, replacement elements with form, colour, details and materials similar to other buildings of the same style are acceptable."

To obtain drawings and/or archived photos of your property (if available), requests should be sent to permis@westmount.org. The heritage category of buildings can be found on the city map of "character areas" accessed on westmount.org through Resident zone/urban planning.

The approval of permits are generally based on By-law 1305 on Site Planning and Architectural Integration Programs (SPAIP) also known by the French acronym as (PIIA).



From left, 10 Surrey Gardens and 657 Murray Hill on June 21.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.



Baby fox – a kit – makes an appearance at The 4300

BY JENNIFER BALL

Residents of the east side of The 4300 apartment building received a unique message from their Minto apartment property management team on June 11. It alerted them to the fact that a fox was on the loose in their parking garage.

The 12-floor apartment complex, which was built in 1960, is found at 4300 de Maisonneuve Blvd., at Kitchener Ave.

"We regret to inform you that the B2 garage doors are currently inaccessible due to an unforeseen circumstance. A baby fox has become trapped between both doors, making it unsafe to open them until the animal is safely removed," said the email from the building.

"Our team is coordinating with animal control services to resolve the situation as quickly and safely as possible. Once the animal has been successfully removed, we will promptly notify you and re-open the garage doors for regular use..."

The *Independent* spoke with the front-desk attendant on June 18 requesting information and – optimistically – a photo of the baby fox. The attendant did say that on June 11 animal control services gently captured the animal.

The *Independent* spoke with Catherine at The 4300's building-administration office the same day requesting information

on whether the fox was released into the wild or kept by a care group given its tender age. A photo of the animal was also asked for.

The request, Catherine said, needed to be elevated to the corporate office and no response came in time for the *Independent's* June 21 press deadline.



The eastern portion of The 4300 de Maisonneuve apartment building on June 21.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THANKS TO WESTMOUNT CITY COUNCIL RE. PAC

I was touched by Jennifer Ball's article in the May 21 edition of the *Westmount Independent* (p. 1), wherein she cites the comments by Frédéric Neault, director of Westmount's Urban Planning department, regarding my term as a member of Westmount's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC).

It made me reflect upon my eight-year experience with this unique group. The uniqueness stems from the PAC's demanding role in the preservation of Westmount's distinct status for its built and natural environment. As residents of Westmount, we can be proud of our city's designation by Parks Canada as a National Historic Site – a rare distinction amongst Canadian municipalities.

The PAC serves as an advisory committee to city council, and provides recommendations for the approval or rejection of permit applications based on its review of the documentation submitted. Given the distinct status of Westmount, the responsibilities of the parties involved in this process cannot be taken lightly. In fact, the efforts and judgment of the individuals with whom I was privileged to collaborate in the review process deserve to be lauded.

The experience of, as well as the devotion and concern for preserving the distinct character and heritage value of Westmount by, the PAC's members – in accordance with the guidelines established for this

purpose – is paramount. I found the PAC leadership and professional members to be highly qualified and conscientious; the knowledge, degree of devotion and dedication of the city's Urban Planning team to be exceptional; and – while respecting the guidelines – the concern for the interests of the city's residents exhibited by the city councillors who sit on the PAC to be admirable.

Kudos to the city of Westmount for its judicious structuring of the PAC. I feel extremely honoured and privileged to have been part of this group; and I thank the city for the opportunity I was given to serve on this exceptional committee.

GERALD SOIFERMAN – RETIRING MEMBER,
PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WHERE'S COUNCIL'S ANSWER ON LANE GARBAGE PICK-UP ISSUE?

The new garbage pick-up problem has been raised before by many concerned citizens. We have yet to see acknowledgement of this problem by council or proposals to solve it. Houses in the concerned lane areas [where garbage is no longer picked up] lack entrances to basements where the garbage containers could be stored. They now have to be dragged twice weekly either through houses, if possible, or around lanes from back to front and back. Many older people, some with health problems, live in these areas. The new rules are a serious hardship for them. We expect council and specifically Matt Aron-



Where Dorchester Blvd. begins at St. Catherine and Clarke. Hands added by the *Independent*.

PHOTO: A. STARK.

son, councillor of Ward 7, to propose a satisfactory solution for this problematic situation before the winter creates increased hardship, and possibly accidents.

BARBARA LEBLOND, IRVINE AVE.
& WENDY CUDE, IRVINE AVE.

Councillor Matt Aronson, who was copied on this email, replies: I'm very glad you let me know that you're having some trouble working out how to adapt to putting your landfill out curbside on pick-up day. Had you not written to me, I wouldn't have been able to assist you in working out a solution – which is why I've been encouraging our residents to do that when I give reports on this topic at our council meetings (as Mr. Price, the editor of the *Independent*, cc'd, can confirm as he or one of his reporters attends every meeting).

To answer your question, council does understand that improving our policies with respect to landfill collection services does have the knock-on effect of having to change some of the ways our residents do things, and that change can be tough for some of us to manage – that's why we have asked our administration to be sure to help anyone who needs a hand working out a new way to get the waste pick-up service they need.

Our Environment Services team has allocated resources and manpower to looking at individual residents' circumstances and working out solutions. I would invite you to contact assistance@westmount.org (or by phone at 514.989.5200) and ask for Patricia Racette (division head of Environmental Services) to send someone to your address to look at the situation.

Please let me know if the resources council has put in place to help with this issue are suitable to resolve it to your satisfaction, and if not, I will certainly take the matter up the chain to get it sorted for you.

OH, THAT UN-MAGIC FEELING: NOWHERE TO GO

Looking at the photo above, where do I go?! CSST monitors safety for workers. Who monitors the safety for motorists?

AVRUM STARK, CLARKE AVE.

Editor's note: See also stories on p. 10 and p. 11. – DP.

THANKS FOR HELP ON CLARKE GARBAGE PICK-UP

The city of Westmount has decided to change its position on the issue of garbage collection in the alley east of Clarke Ave. between de Maisonneuve and St. Catherine, which is excellent news for local residents, but also for all citizens of Westmount who pay taxes.

I would like to highlight the exceptional work of our municipal councillor, Ms. Kathleen Kez, as well as the Westmount residual materials management departments in the complex issue of garbage collection.

Ms. Kez's open-mindedness ensured that everyone was on board in "solution mode" to improve the garbage collection process, despite the stubbornness of the general management of the city of Westmount, which wrote to me in an email recently that there "will be no exceptions."

The policy adopted simply did not make sense, even for the city and its subcontractor (Derichebourg). The "inaccessible" nature of the alley behind Clarke Ave. is less of a challenge than collecting rubbish directly on Clarke [between de Maisonneuve and St. Catherine], with its steps, sidewalks and numerous parked cars. It's a matter of common sense and we thank once again the city council and more particularly Ms. Kez.

PATRICK CHARLEBOIS,
CLARKE AVE. *continued on p. 7*

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Editor

David Price: 514.935.4537
editor@westmountindependent.com

Chief reporter

Laureen Sweeney

Graphics

Ted Sancton

Advertising sales

Arleen Candiotti: 514.223.3567
advertising@westmountindependent.com

Classified ads

514-664-6138

Accounting

Beth Hudson: 514.223.6138
office@westmountindependent.com

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TONY WESTMOUNT OR
HONKY-TONK ALABAMA?

There is an old expression that says “I may not know much about art, but I know what I like.” This said, I think that the mural recently painted above the parking lot on Greene Ave. just below Sherbrooke further deteriorates what was once one of the most chic and picturesque streets in all of Montreal.

First, the yellow and green paint on the road on the east side of the street, followed by the picnic tables, followed by the parking bollards, followed by the removal of one lane of traffic in order to accommodate the picnic tables.

And now this mural! This is, at best, unsightly and unnecessary and at worst very “honky tonk” and more reminiscent of a carnival sideshow in Alabama than on the tony street that Greene once was.

I may not know much about art, but I absolutely dislike the mural.

JOE RUSSO, SHERBROOKE ST.

MORE DESCRIPTIVE NAME
NEEDED FOR SHERBROOKE ST.

Anyone who has used the 24 bus to transit Westmount from Atwater to Claremont knows that they must be prepared.

For those who sit, correct posture and a strong spine are needed.

For those who stand, a secure purchase on an immovable part of the bus is essential. A pair of ear plugs will add further protection.

What is needed is a re-engineering of the road-bed and its tarmac surface to a strength that can support the heavy truck traffic that is still permitted to use this route.

It seems that the STM cannot improve the suspension on its buses, and the city of Westmount will not repair the roadbed in a suitable way. There appears to be one option left.

We need to give the street a more informative and cautionary name than the one it has now, which recalls a conquering Briton.

I propose “rue des Cataractes.”

KEN FLEGEL, LANSDOWNE AVE.

MORE SHERBROOKE BLUES

Over the course of two or three nights, Montreal has put down an amazingly smooth road surface [on Sherbrooke at Atwater].

Immediately across the border, there are bicycle busting ruts in the road. ►

By the way, The Boulevard is the same. What’s wrong with Westmount?

RON DIAMOND, DOWNTOWN



Travel

VERONICA REDGRAVE

In the moving stillness of a morning, you might want to be in the Eastern Townships. Some towns, like Knowlton, remind me of Chester, Nova Scotia. Others are more like villages. Here, time seems to have stood still; some little hamlets have sidewalks on one side of the street only.

In Sutton, there are even marked car-stopping pedestrian crossings, highly respected like crosswalks in Halifax. Everywhere, there are serene scenes. Arching trees hide deer and notable birds. I’ve even seen falcons.

Travelling there is a tad less crowded than going up north. If you arrive early in Sutton, a must is breakfast at Mollie’s, open at 7 am – although the terrace also welcomes people all day long until 6 pm. (It is closed Wednesdays).



A rural traffic jam.

Try total Townships tranquility

In Knowlton, try renowned Caron & Frères, a branch of its famed Petite Italie café in Montreal. Urban week-end rural lovers will be interested to know that this summer there is a fabulous art moment: Tour des Arts July 13 to 21. What could be more fun than discovery? Not only of country roads (thank you GPS!) but of innovative pieces by talented designers.

Tour des Arts is celebrating 35 successful years. This edition features so much exciting work, it may take you a whole weekend. Find an Airbnb and stay awhile.

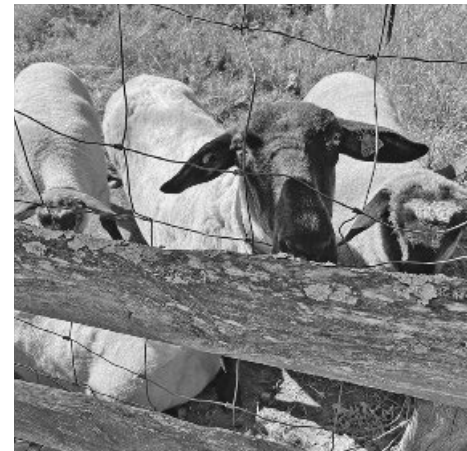
Check out Tour des Arts online. You will encounter artists who use oil in their paintings (Westmounter Rava Pavilanis); marvellous meditative embroidered works using recycled metal and frames (Anne-Sylvie Dunand); elegant wood-worked mosaics (John Murphy); glass (Maryse Chartrand); hand-made contemporary wooden furniture (John Glendinning); amazing raku ceramics (John Davidson); glittering glass mosaics (Steve-Éric Picard),

semi-precious jewellery (Tania Volborth); landscapes (Peter Raymond), amusing ceramic sculptures (Alisa Sushko) and lute making (Michel Dufresne). And I only named a few. See tourdesarts.com for more.

Find a piece you love; a holiday gift, or a collectible forever. Pack a picnic. Order take-out at Tartinezza (Sutton) or Buzz (Knowlton).

Fortify your meandering with gluten-free (or not!) goodies and fabulous coffee at Café Yamabiko (Sutton). Far from the madding crowd, it also has a quiet upstairs room and a cool, shaded outdoor area full of picnic tables and families.

After a hot day, be a child. Relax with an ice-cream (Snobol, Sutton). Ideally, arrive on a Friday so you can visit the Brome Lake Farmers’ market or the famous Sutton market – both open Saturdays. What’s not to love in such a bucolic countryside? No airport line-ups (or lost luggage). No tourist crowds with guides.



New cuddly besties.



Simply pastoral peace.



SOMERVILLE ISSUES CONTINUE

The Independent was copied on this email June 12.

Hello Ms. Bostock [city councillor for District 5],

I hope this e-mail finds you well.... I would like to follow up with you regarding the meeting we had about a year ago concerning, truck traffic, parking, road damage and noise in the [Victoria village] area.

It seems to me that following what I thought would be a constructive encounter with you and Mayor Smith, that none of the issues that were discussed have been addressed or seen any improvement. It has been years of contact and discussions with city officials talking about these basic issues that affect our safety and quality of life, but nothing is done.

What is the reasoning behind this inaction?

I’m am very interested to hear the sol-

utions that are being led by you as our councillor and member of the traffic committee. Please contact me when possible to discuss, once more, these issues.

Please find below a few pictures taken this morning only on Somerville. [One included below]

Looking forward to speak to you soon.

Warm regards,

PHILIPPE LORD, SOMERVILLE AVE.



Grade 10 student most comfortable amidst trees

Bismuth's Lachine Canal tree-planting project to start in September

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

As a girl growing up in Beaconsfield before she moved to Westmount, Evelyne Bismuth had an affinity for trees.

The grade 10 student at Lower Canada College used to climb trees in her family's back yard - often while sitting on a large branch as she read assigned work for school.

"In my back yard, there was this one magnolia tree, and there was this one branch that was kind of like a seat, and whenever I had to read for school I would read there," she said in an interview with the *Independent*.

So, having found sanctuary and a restful place for learning in the trees, she eventually turned that refuge into a mission.

Collective forest coming

In conjunction with LCC, she recently announced the launch of a project involving a collective forest to be planted in Montreal.

Her ambitious endeavour, which is part of her International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (IB MYP) personal project at the school, aims to plant at least 50



trees along the edge of the Lachine Canal in Montreal's Côte St. Paul neighbourhood.

"Nature has always been where I feel the most calm and safe, especially in the branches of trees," she said.

"It is extremely concerning to me that climate change poses such a threat to the environment and I'd like to do what I can to help."

Her project has attracted support, including start-up funding and partner-

Evelyne Bismuth, a Lower Canada College grade 10 student, is seen here on May 29 near the Lachine canal where she will be overseeing the planting of a small forest of trees.

ships with Parks Canada, Concordia University, Gestion Immobilière Quo Vadis, and Groupe de Recommandations et d'Action pour un Meilleur Environnement (GRAME).

Support allows project

Her efforts and the corporate support have already resulted in half of the necessary funds already raised to cover the cost

of the trees, shrubs, pollinators and three years of maintenance. The mini-forest, to be known as "La forêt collective," will also be the site of educational seminars on sustainability and the mental health benefits of green spaces.

Planting is scheduled to begin in September, with volunteers and community members invited to participate in the transformation.

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Dangerous Dorchester driver



The white car at left was driving north/west on Dorchester towards St. Catherine/Clarke June 20 when the black car's driver started to make a turn south/east/right into the *Independent*, it would seem that the white car was in the wrong and should have stayed in the right-hand lane of Dorchester westbound, starting at Greene, see photo at left, and the black car was in the right to try to use a usually westbound lane of Dorchester to go east, see photo at right. (It is possible that the black car's right/south/east turn off St. Catherine was illegal, but the signage on that issue is not clear. See story on p. 11.) Construction on the eastbound lane of Dorchester near Bruce is causing the changes to where drivers should go. In the end, cautious driving by the black car's driver averted a head-on collision and it just continued east on St. Catherine.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT



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Turn ... no wait ... Don't turn!



As seen June 17. It is possible that what is meant by this mess of signage is that trucks ONLY shouldn't turn right onto Dorchester from St. Catherine eastbound, but how is a driver supposed to infer that while driving at a normal speed? The message was no clearer on June 20 (not pictured) when the *Independent* went by.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom hosts a Pride Shabbat

BY JENNIFER BALL

Three members of the LGBTQ community spoke from the bema at a recent Pride Shabbat. They echoed Rabbi Lisa Grushcow's statement that they are embraced by Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, not just tolerated by the congregation.

June is Pride month and Temple held its Pride Shabbat on June 14 at its location on Sherbrooke at Wood Ave. Temple, along with support by Ga'ava Quebec and CJPAC, made this year's Pride Shabbat a celebration of love and acceptance in the spirit of togetherness and joy.

Homosexuality outlawed in 67 countries

Part of the joy was derived from the reality that few countries around the world are hosting a Pride Shabbat, and 67 countries still have national laws criminalizing same-sex relations between consenting adults.

A 2024 American study published by the Public Religion Research Institute reported by National Public Radio found nearly half (47 percent) of respondents who left their respective religious institutions cited negative teaching about the treatment of LGBTQ people as the reason.

The findings also reflected that those under 30 years of age have no patience at all for sermons that segregate.

Israeli vs. Canadian experience

Shauli Talmor is a gay Israeli temporarily living in Canada who wanted to share his experience of being a gay man raising a child in Tel Aviv with his life partner.

In Tel Aviv, "you are out and open... however, the rest of Israel has some way to go, although there has been some progress towards LGBTQ rights..."

"I can tell you that Israel would never go for a [Pride] Shabbat service in a temple or a synagogue, whereas here in Canada we find ourselves [attending such a service.]"



The exterior of Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom decorated for its Pride Shabbat on June 14.

Stephanie Susser and Valerie Clayman were married in Massachusetts, and they have two sons.

Clayman said "I grew up in a modern Orthodox family and I swore, when I came out, that I would never step foot in any form of religious 'anything' again..."

"When [our first son] was born, Stephanie said, 'We should introduce him to our cultural identity before anyone else tries to introduce him into their cultural identity'..."

"[Being a member of Temple's congregation] has been an experience and something that I never thought would affect me

so deeply, has really touched me and has been able to bring me back to my Jewish roots..."

"We are not [just] tolerated here, we are brought in, and we are a part of [the community]. I come into the sanctuary and this whole place feels like home to me," Clayman shared.

And what about the pro-Palestinian protests?

This is all occurring at a time when Montreal's LGBTQ are said to be divided by ideology over the war in the Middle East.

Mathieu Gelbhart attended the Pride Shabbat and reflected upon the fact that he felt that he needed to be there, saying "as you know a lot of queer people took a very strong stand supporting Palestine resistance – which is very right – but a lot of radicals took over and many of them are involved in the McGill [pro-Palestinian] encampment..."

"I wanted to help Temple Emanu-El because making a great success [of the Temple's Pride Shabbat helps] LGBTQ Jews fly above all of this."



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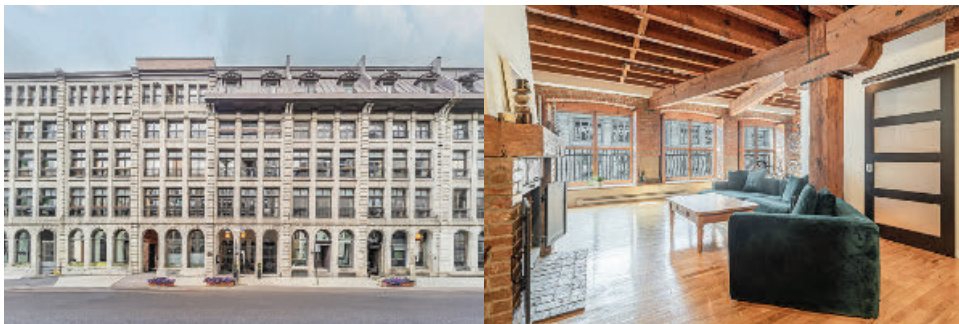


Far from home



This Canadian Tire shopping cart was photographed June 12 on Sherbrooke at Lansdowne. The nearest Canadian Tire is in Alexis Nihon.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.



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Manoir Westmount's garden party makes post-COVID comeback

By JENNIFER BALL

There was a garden party to celebrate the 45th anniversary of Manoir Westmount on June 13. It was a well-attended affair at the non-profit seniors' residence, perhaps in part because one has not been held since 2019 due to COVID fetters.

Waiters circulated offering residents cocktails and canapés, and a violinist stopped by each table to take requests. Manoir Westmount is adjacent to Victoria Hall on

Sherbrooke and Lansdowne Ave., and the gardens are at the back of the building.

Thomas Burpee, chair of Manoir's board, told the assembled residents, "Back in 1979, the Manoir was founded by the Westmount Rotary club by providing the funds to put up the building and providing its board of directors..."

"Today, we have invited all Rotarians, volunteers and dignitaries from the city to join our residents for this celebration. Welcome everybody!"

"Things are going well these days as we continue to recover from COVID. New residents continue to arrive, which makes us very happy..."

"When I meet a resident outside the Manoir building, they tell me how much they like living here and I find this so encouraging..."

"My thanks to Gina [D'Angelo, manager of Manoir Westmount] and all the staff and volunteers for the wonderful work that they do."

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Left photo, the 45th anniversary of the Manoir Westmount was marked on June 13. Right photo, current manager Gina D'Angelo and retired manager Tom Thompson. D'Angelo, began working at the seniors' residence in 1979, shortly after its construction. Thompson retired in December 2020, after 25 years in the position (see story November 17, 2020, p. 3).

RIGHT, PHOTO: LAUREN SWEENEY

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Overheard

Caregiver (mother?) to young boy (eight?), Sherbrooke near Prince Albert, June 14 at 8:30 am:
"You can't own a house with a tennis court if you're a teacher."

*

Middle-aged man to older couple in front of the YMCA on Sherbrooke St., June 7 at 8:30 am:
"You look MARVELOUS!"

*

Man to man in Westmount, May 23 at 2:30 pm:
"A wolf has taken it."

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Rotary lunch report

Denis Brott: Chamber music doesn't have to be scary

BY JENNIFER BALL

Denis Brott is the founder and artistic director of the Montreal Chamber Music Festival. He has curated its musical programming for the past 29 years.

He asked Rotarians at their June 5 luncheon meeting, "What is the first thing that springs to mind when you hear the term 'chamber music?'"

A fellow bellowed: "It scares me away!" and that was pretty much what Brott was expecting to hear.

"Exactly! It scares you away, and in fact it does that to a lot of people, and it has a really bad rap in that respect..."

"But all it actually is is musical conversations in intimate spaces," he said at a luncheon on June 5 at Victoria Hall.

He was there to review 29 years of the Montreal Chamber Music Festival and to express gratitude that it did not end at 25.

Four years ago, it was touch and go, his family was told, as to whether he would be able to return to playing music, let alone curating musical performances that are enjoyed by millions internationally.

In early March 2020, Brott returned from teaching in London and Amsterdam and within days was gripped by a 104-degree fever. He was admitted to the ICU at the CHUM, which he reckons is "one of the greatest hospitals in the world, right in our backyard..."

COVID patient #1

"I was the first COVID patient in their new ICU. I was intubated and put into a coma for 32 days and I was in the hospital for 45 days..."

"My goal over the past four years has been getting back to playing, which I am glad to say I have managed to do."

From June 13 to 23, Brott said there will be 13 exceptional performances at Bourgie Hall, which is found at 1339 Sherbrooke,



From left, Denis Brott, the founder and artistic director of the Montreal chamber music festival and Levon Markosyan. They performed at Victoria Hall on June 5. Photo taken on June 5.

with 50 artists from around the world attending.

"If you go on a website called the Violin Channel, you will hear concerts from the festival. You will see Montreal being promoted, you will see and hear the finest talents from Canada and Quebec being heard by 600,000 people a month..."

"Over four million people heard our programs via Hong Kong radio..."

"What we have in our own town is not appreciated as the world appreciates it and that is typically Canadian."

'Music is a gift'

Music is one of the gifts that life has to offer, Brott said. "It is this wordless language and that is why I say you cannot really talk about music. You must experience it."

To prove his point, Brott and his student Levon Markosyan settled in to play a movement of "Duet for two cellos" by Friedrich August Kummer.

As a soloist with every major Canadian orchestra and cellist in the renowned Orford String Quartet, Brott has recorded over 35 albums, including the highly acclaimed complete string quartets of Beethoven and a homage to Gregor Piatigorsky, his teacher and mentor.

Currently a professor of cello and chamber music, and conductor of the string orchestra at the Montreal music conservatory, Brott gives concerts and master classes worldwide and serves as a juror for international competitions.

In recognition of his role in creating the instrument bank of the Canada Council for the Arts, he was given the lifetime use of an exceptional 1706 David Tecchler cello, now known as the Brott-Turner Tecchler.

He has received the Knight of Merit of the Sovereign Military Order of St. John of Jerusalem, the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Award, the Order of Montreal, the Order of Canada and, in 2023, the Ordre national du Québec.

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*How are the kids?***Federal minister of mental health, addictions: Not great**

BY JENNIFER BALL

Ya'ara Saks, federal minister of mental health and addictions, and associate minister of health, presented some dire statistics on the mental health “epidemic”: now one in three Canadians will be affected by mental illness in their lifetime. In short: the kids are not great.

She shared this view when she was speaking at the annual Goldbloom family forum, which took place June 2 at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, found at Sherbrooke and Wood Ave.

The Goldbloom Family Forum is dedicated to fostering meaningful conversations and addressing pressing societal issues through dialogue, education and community engagement.

Each year, the forum brings together experts and thought leaders to explore topics of relevance and significance to the community. This year's topic was mental health.

Jonathan Goldbloom, the event host, said, “This year, we have four speakers who will address the broad topic of mental health from both a public policy perspective and the needs of Montrealers.”

It featured esteemed speakers and thought leaders in the field. Joining Saks on stage were Dr. David Goldbloom, professor emeritus of psychiatry at the University of Toronto, Ella Amir, executive director at AMI-Quebec, and Patricia Lemoine Smith, senior vice president at Teneo.

Local member of parliament Anna Gainey was also in attendance.

Saks highlighted the prevalence of anxiety disorders. “The latest data from 2022 shows that one in five Canadians are reporting experiencing an anxiety disorder, which is a rise of 15 percent since 2018...”

“Children and youth report an even higher percentage of anxiety disorders, about 22 percent.”

Her ministerial mandate empowered Saks to launch the 988 suicide prevention line as of November 2023. It is available 24/7, in English and French, and includes an indigenous service line.

Amir of AMI-Quebec spoke on the emerging role of caregivers for those suffering with mental illness.

“As Rosemary Carter said years ago, ‘There are only four kinds of people in the world: those who are helping caregivers, those who are currently caregivers, those who will be caregivers and those who will need a caregiver.’”

Caregivers are, she said, forced to work an extra shift in addition to all their other duties and responsibilities. “They provide



From left: Jonathan Goldbloom, MP Anna Gainey, federal health minister Ya'ara Saks, Ella Amir, Patricia Lemoine Smith, Dr. David Goldbloom and Rabbi Lisa Grushcow. The annual Goldbloom family forum took place on June 2, and was hosted at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, which is located on Sherbrooke and Wood Ave.

an average of 5.1 hours of care a day, which is almost the equivalent of a full-time job.”

“Nearly one in five of the caregivers are over 65 years of age and also require care for themselves.”

In the context of mental illness, it is often a lifelong responsibility, she said.

As an organization, AMI-Quebec helps individuals to navigate the healthcare system on behalf of their family member who are in crisis.

Rabbi Lisa Grushcow, who is senior rabbi at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, observed, “Mental health is a huge societal and political issue, and it is also a communal and spiritual one. How do we support people who are suffering from mental illness, along with their families who are affected?...”

“When you break a leg, someone will bring you a casserole...”

“But if you are hospitalized for de-

pression, there tends to be a lot of silence and stigma. One of the roles that I think we can play as a religious institution and as a community is to help to open the conversation.”

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Police Report

Owner to put down dog, police looking for victim after Summit Circle dog bite

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Police at Station 12 on Stanton St. who are investigating a recent dog-bite incident on Westmount's summit are waiting to hear from the victim after being informed by the owner that he intends to terminate the dog's life.

According to a summary of the incident on Summit Circle on June 15, the owner informed staff at Station 12 that he had adopted the dog some years before from a pet shelter where he worked.

"Since he had the dog, and he had the dog around seven to eight years, it had bitten people, and this last time it was a serious bite where the victim went to the hospital," said Station 12 community relations officer Cst. Mike Yigit, paraphrasing from the French-language report.

He said the dog's owner, who is not a Westmount resident, also called the animal shelter to inform them of his intentions to have the dog, an English mastiff, put down after this latest biting incident.

According to Cst. Yigit, the dog's owner did his due diligence by filing a dog-bite incident report.

But in the meantime, he added, the investigators were still waiting as of last week to hear from the victim so they could complete their report.

Car on tow truck, driver on sidewalk

A few Westmounters witnessed an unusual early morning incident on June 20 at the corner of Redfern Ave. and St. Catherine St., where a car was being towed away while the apparent owner lay in a distressed state on his side on the nearby sidewalk.

According to Station 12 incident reports, a tow truck operator mandated to remove vehicles under provisions of Quebec's Code de sécurité routière (CSR) for traffic offenses was active at the intersection at 7 am that day.

When asked why the car in question was being towed, Yigit said it was not for a criminal offense, although he confirmed that CSR tow trucks do routinely remove cars whose owners have outstanding unpaid traffic tickets.

Another Jaguar stolen

Although just one car theft appears in Station 12's incident summaries last week, it was a make of high-end vehicle that has been reported stolen in Westmount at least four times since late last year.

A woman who parked her Jaguar F-Pace SUV in her driveway on Upper Roslyn Ave. on June 17 woke up the following morning to see that it was no longer there.

According to *Westmount Independent* news files, during the early morning hours last September 23, a Jaguar F-Pace was also stolen from a parking spot near the corner of Upper Roslyn and Sunnyside avenues in upper Westmount.

As well, during the early morning hours

last September 27, another Jaguar F-Pace was stolen off a nearby street, also in Westmount.

Records also show that a Jaguar F-Pace was stolen on January 21 this year from a parking spot near the corner of Forden and Montrose avenues. And on March 19, a Jaguar F-Pace was stolen in broad daylight from a private driveway on Claremont Ave.

Scooter stolen

While stolen vehicle reports usually involve cars, a motor scooter was reported as stolen outside a Westmount home on June 17.

The owner, a resident of St. Antoine St. in lower Westmount, filed a complaint at Station 12 that his Taiwanese PGO Scooter had been parked on the street and disappeared during the night.

Bike stolen, bike left

Finally, another warning to bicycle owners that since summer is high season for bike thefts, a measure of prevention in the form of a lock is best.

Some Lansdowne Ave. residents filed a complaint about a curious bike theft incident around 7 pm on June 16, when a thief apparently left behind his or her own set of wheels, while stealing the complainant's.

According to the report, the owners had left a bike unlocked and unsupervised for a time in a driveway. When they returned, the bike was gone, but another unfamiliar bicycle was lying on the sidewalk a short distance away.

Cst. Yigit speculated that the thief, while driving by on a bike, may have spotted the unsecured bicycle and decided on the spur of the moment to steal it, leaving behind their own bike.



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We welcome your letters

We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week.

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Saving little Blondie



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER



Please adopt Blondie for her to have the best family life ever. She is very healthy, has had her inoculations and treatments, and is just out of spay surgery.

Please consider her for a family as soon as possible and contact our neighbour Francine at 514.637.5411 for more information and additional photographs. You can make a difference in precious Blondie's life, so that love and the comforts of home be hers through you.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne

Blondie is a young caramel tabby beauty with a tiny face and huge eyes. A year-and-a-bit old, she was born outside and survived by the hands that fed her.

The precarious phase of her life stopped when she was caught and taken in for general vetting, vaccinations and spaying. She did very well and she is now ready for a forever home.

There was urgency to help Blondie, as she had a litter of tiny kittens, which has also been taken in for foster until they are old enough to place.

Blondie had two perfect ears, yet as an outdoor cat her ear was cut when she was spayed to mark that she was from the woods and is now sterilized. You will be pleased to know that this little mommy is convalescing and eating well.

She is a beauty who needs a loving family environment, something we agree that she should have as any other cat.

Dante the Pomie in need



Westmount
A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER



there for visits and information to facilitate the adoption process with you as soon as possible. Please drop by the shelter to visit little Dante and bring him back with you to a family environment in our neighbourhood. He will then join our most beloved Westmount dogs of summer and never look back on his past.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne

A small Pomeranian type guy, Dante has landed in the Montreal SPCA kennel, with the big dogs of summer abandonment. He is a delightful black puffball, with a white muzzle and tan markings as well.

An active and affectionate six-year-old, he is up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped. He is available for humanitarian adoption, as a reduced-fee adoption placement. Dante is beyond cute, intelligent and loves to play.

Please refer to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com, scroll to his information page by his identification number, 2000144979, and consult the opening-hour schedule to plan your visit to the shelter.

They are open seven days a week, from 3 pm to 8 pm from Monday to Friday, as well as 11 am to 6 pm Saturday and Sunday.

The Montreal SPCA is located at 5215 Jean Talon St. West, Côte des Neiges, Montreal, H4P 1X4. Adoption coordinators are

Rabbi Goldscheider talks *Torah United*

BY JENNIFER BALL

With his new book *Torah United*, Rabbi Aaron Goldscheider works to educate readers about the impact Rabbi Rav Avraham Yitzchak Kook, Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik and the Hassidic masters made in rabbinical spheres.

Previously, Rabbi Goldscheider wrote *The Night That Unites* (Haggadah) and *The Light That Unites* (Hanukah) companion. Both books are available in Hebrew.

He was invited to offer teachings from *Torah United* by the Congregation Shaar Hashomayim when it hosted its second annual day of learning event on May 5.

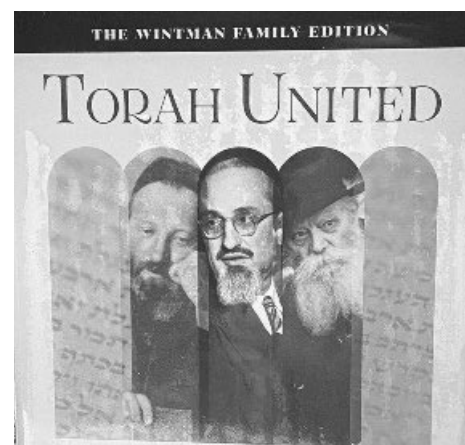
The Shaar learning centre was set up just 18 months ago and the theme for the day was “Nurturing Hope: Israel and Judaism.” It is found at 450 Kensington Ave.

‘Many roads to truth’

Rabbi Dr. Tzvi Hersh Weinreb, executive vice president of Orthodox Union, who published the book, writes “Dear reader, you are about to discover one of the central features of our Torah. There are many roads to truth, but ultimately all those roads lead to a common conclusion. That conclusion is ably summed up by King David, who declares in Psalm 19: “The Lord’s Torah is perfect, refreshing the soul...”

On the pages of *Torah United*, Rabbi Goldscheider tells of the impact Rabbi Rav Avraham Yitzchak Kook, Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik and the Hassidic masters made in rabbinical literature.

Rabbi Kook is today considered the first chief rabbi of Israel, and Rabbi Goldscheider drew out his insights and applied them as teachings to unpack what Jews are going through today as Israel remains locked in a war, without an end in sight.



The book *Torah United*, from which author Rabbi Aaron Goldscheider read. The book reading took place at the Congregation Shaar Hashomayim, which is found at 450 Kensington Ave. Photo taken May 5.



The Congregation Shaar Hashomayim hosted its second annual day of learning event on May 5, for which Rabbi Aaron Goldscheider delivered a lecture. The Shaar is found at 450 Kensington Ave.

“There is no Israel yet,” Rabbi Goldscheider said to place Rabbi Kook in a historical framework, “he dies in 1935, so he is the first chief rabbi of Palestine...”

“...Rabbi Kook sees the importance of living in the land of Israel, this centrality in the life of the Jewish people...”

“...I open the Torah and I see that God is always talking about Israel and if God loves Israel so much, I love Israel as well.”

‘Many ways to approach Torah’

Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman, president of Yeshiva University, introduced the work of non-fiction. “There are many ways to approach the text of the Torah. Some mine for inspiration, others focus on psychological insights, while others focus on the reverberation of the text throughout Jewish history...”

“In this remarkable work by my friend Rabbi Goldscheider, all three are woven together to form a seamless tapestry of Torah insight, depth, and history...”

Rabbi Goldscheider holds American and Israeli citizenship. He received his rabbinic ordination from Rabbi Isaac Elchanan theological seminary of Yeshiva University. He served as spiritual leader in pulpits in Florida and New York before moving with his family to Jerusalem.

He now serves as a faculty member at the Orthodox Union’s Israel Center and as editor of its weekly Torah publication. He directs the rabbinic leadership course at Yeshiva University’s Gruss Kollel in Jerusalem.

He is often called in as a speaker at Jewish pedagogical events where the Torah, Israel, community, Eretz Yisrael, family education, Halacha and the modern world are of utmost educational importance to the community.

Hope, Love and Community – and models, skateboarders and poets



Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Maison Alcan was recently transformed by an incredible fun fashion moment. It was organized by Paradis Urbain to raise money for UP House, a centre for psycho-social rehabilitation for people living with long-term mental health conditions.

“Hope, Love and Community” featured

poets, singers, skateboarders and filmmakers, ensuring diversity in all its forms. Its success was due to the collaborative efforts of 69 dedicated volunteers, including 25 volunteer models, and the creative contributions of Montreal fashion designers, hairdressers and make-up artists.

Some performers read poetry as they walked the runway; others modelled a range of outfits.

The presentation was by fashion show producer **Sophie Lanza**.

Guests’ attire ranged from backless black to bro- *continued on p. 22*



David Hoppenheim and Devon Reid.



Barbara and Phil Silverberg.



Kenny Etinson and Sherri Kimmel.



Cathy Dumais and Sterling Downey.



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Social notes, cont'd from p. 21

cade jackets and patterned pyjama-style trouser suits. Shoes were sneakers: white and neon reigned.

Organizing committee members of UP Beat were Paradis Urbain's board president David Hoppenheim, board vp Sandra Dias, and senior director Devon Reid, along with Aline Yip, Dahna Weber, Ingrid de Rauglaudre, Zoe Cousineau, John Compuesto, Sharleen Young, Madison Reid, Pierre Ragot, Athena Le-Tran, Anthony Johnson, Jennifer Estimé, Ashleigh Milord, Pam Blankfort, Sophie Lanza and DJ Christian Pronovost. UP House founders Barbara

and Phil Silverberg welcomed guests.

Sips and snacks were offered during cocktail hour. Noted during the eve were UP House executive director Alanna Devine, Sterling Downing, deputy mayor Montreal; Sherri and Eric Kimmel, Kenny Etnison and his wife Lyne Garfinkle, Susan Lazar Hart and Ricky Hart, Kenny Etnison, Sherri Kimmell, Saha and Anthony Rill, Claudia Bierman and William Graham, Arlene and Donald Devine, Joan and Skye Vogelesang, Marilyn Takefman and Alexis Levy and Nathaniel Devine.

Major sponsors were The Eric and Sherri Kimmel Family Foundation (platinum) and Divco Foundation (gold).



Sandra Dias, Anthony and Saha Rill.



Alanna Devine.

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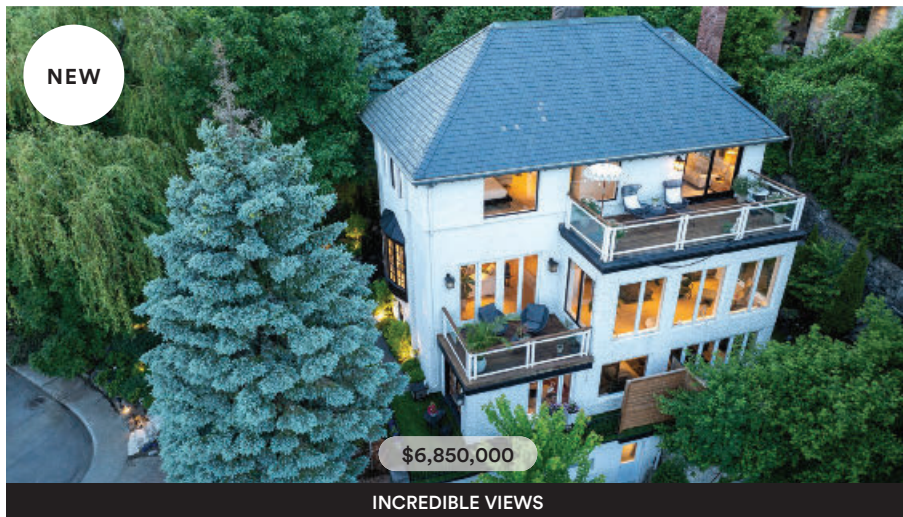
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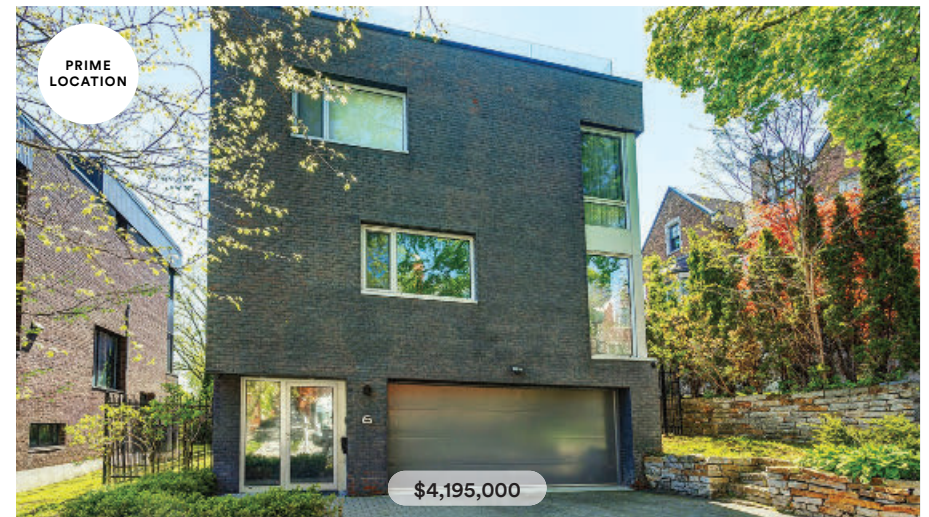
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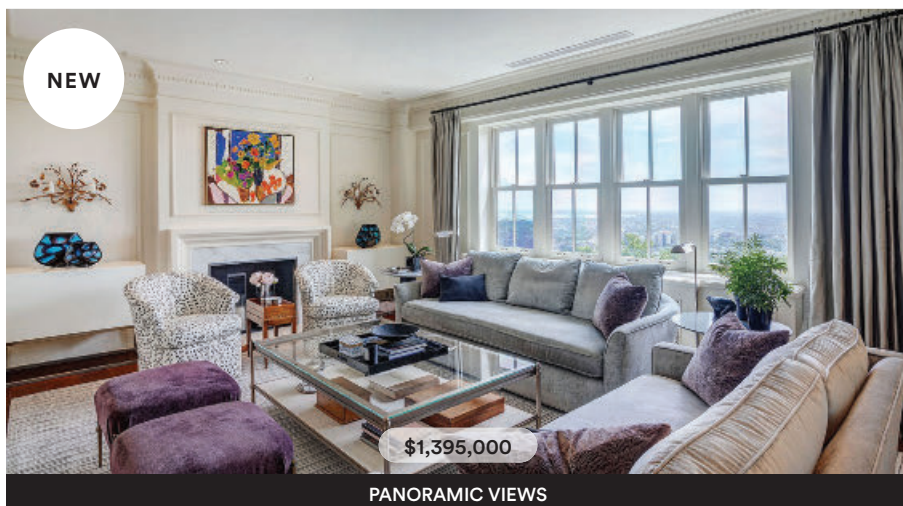
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